playing only a supportive role as the common share holder. To bring the Indian banking industry to global level, new initiatives have to be introduced including, consolidation of the domestic banking system in both public and private sectors on the one hand and gradual enhancement of the presence of foreign banks in India in a phased manner on the other.

Study on Functioning of RRBs

2861. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a study on the functioning of RRBs;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to make the RRB's function effectively in rural sector;

(d) whether the Public Sector banks would iron out their differences and reduce the number of RRBs to function under one Public Sector Bank in a region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The following working groups/ committees constituted from time to time have examined various aspects of RRBs including their functioning.

1. Committee on Rural Banks (Dantwala Committee, 1978).

2. Committee to review arrangement for institutional credit for agriculture and rural development (CRAFICARD, 1981).

3. Working Group on Regional Rural Banks (Kelkar Committee, 1974).

4. Agriculture Credit review committee (ACRC, 1989).

5. Committee on financial system (Narasimham Committee, 1991).

6. Committee on Restructuring RRB's (Bhandari Committee, 1994).

7. Working Group on funds management in RRBs (Misra Committee, 1995).

8. Committee on revamping of RRBs (Basu Committee, 1996).

9. Expert Group on RRBs (Thingalaya Committee, 1997).

10. Expert committee for review of supervisory role of NABARD (U.K. Sarma Committee, 1998).

11. Committee on Banking Sector reforms (Narasimham Committee, 1998).

12. Committee on manpower norms in RRBs (Agrawal Committee, 2000).

13. Experts Committee on Rural Credit (ECRC, 2001).

14. Working Goup of suggest amendments in RRBs Act, 1976 (Chalapathi Rao Committee, 2001).

15. Group of CMDs of select public sector banks (A.K. Purwar Committee, 2004).

16. Advisory Committee on flow of credit to Agriculture and related activities form the banking system (Prof. Vyas Committee, 2004).

(c) The Government has taken the following initiatives to make the RRBs function effectively in the Rural Sector;

1. Package for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture and debt relief measures for restructuring accounts of farmers in circumstances of extreme distress due to successive natural calamities or farmers in arrears.

2. One time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers and a scheme for redemption of debts of farmers taken from non-institutional sources.

3. Freedome from service area approach to those RRBs which were having accumulated losses as on 31-3-2004.

4. Recapitalisation support to those RRBs which fulfill the prudential norms and norms of good governance.

5. The sponsor banks have been made fully responsible for the performance of RRBs sponsored by them.

(d) and (e) As a step towards consolidation of RRBs, the process of amalgamation of RRBs in contiguous districts sponsored by the same bank within a State has been initiated in consultation with the Sponsor Banks, NABARD and the respective State Governments.

Duplication of credit cards

2862. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that crime syndicates are duplicating credit cards of unsuspecting customers by using illegal technological means; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by the enforcement agencies to check this crime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has reported that few instances of duplication of Credit Cards of unsuspecting customers by use of illegal technological means has come to their notice. There is a trend of duplicating Credit Cards in the market for unauthorised uses by unscrupulous elements.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has advised in May, 2001 to banks to set up internal control systems to combat frauds related to Credit Cards. The banks in turn have put in place control measures as under:

(i) Special monitoring of transactions incurred in high risk countries is in place. In some banks, customers who visit high risk countries are re-issued a card with new number. Old card is blocked in the system.

(ii) Banks also monitor authorization transactions on a real time basis and customer are contracted if the transactions appear to be suspicious.

World Bank Structural Adjustment Loan facility for Punjab

2863. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has applied for World Bank Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) facility of about 800 million dollars to